



de maximis, inc.

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July 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 158 – June 2020
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On June 4, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a teleconference to discuss the status of the Upper 9-Mile Current Conditions Sampling activities.

Correspondence

- On June 4, CPG provided Health and Safety Plan documents to address Current Conditions Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring (SV CWCM) field activity restrictions and operations during COVID-19 situation to Region 2.
- On June 4, CPG provided proposed staffing information for the SV CWCM sampling activities to Region 2.
- On June 4, CPG provided schedule information for the Current Conditions SV CWCM and Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) programs to Region 2.

Ms. D. Salkie

LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 158 – June 2020

July 15, 2020

Page 2 of 4

- On June 8, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding Region 2's request for Draft Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS) Section 8 edits in Redline/Strikeout (RLSO) format.
- On June 8, Region 2 provided CPG draft IR FS Meeting #30 (May 7, 2020) minutes for review and comment.
- On June 12, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails confirming start date for the 2020 Current Conditions Biota sampling field work.
- On June 12, Region 2 requested clarification from the CPG on the IR FS model setup values.
- On June 15, CPG delivered the May Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On June 15, CPG provided responses to Region 2 questions on the IR FS model setup values.
- On June 16, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding staffing and expected duration for the next Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling event.
- On June 16, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the scheduled June 17 and 18, 2020 PWCM in-water equipment servicing event.
- On June 16, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the proposed Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling schedule for June 30 through July 1, 2020.
- On June 17, Region 2 approved the proposed Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling work scheduled for June 30 and July 1, 2020.
- On June 18, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS model outputs.
- On June 18, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails and CPG provided requested Current Conditions Biota Sampling Fish Aging data.
- On June 23, Region 2 provided responses to CPG on the Current Conditions Biota Sampling issues discussed during the June 4, 2020 teleconference.
- On June 23, CPG provided details to Region 2 regarding the planned SV CWCM sampling event scheduled for June 30 and July 1, 2020.
- On June 23, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding coordination of Current Conditions SV CWCM split sampling for scheduled June 30 and July 1, 2020 event.
- On June 29 and 30, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the status of the Region's 2019 Current Conditions SV CWCM split samples analysis and data validation.

Work

- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG developed health and safety plan COVID-19 addendums for Current Conditions Sampling work.
- CPG conducted a Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment servicing event June 17 and 18.
- CPG conducted a Current Conditions SV CWCM Sampling event June 30 and July 1.
- CPG completed sample analysis and continued data validation of 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 158 – June 2020
July 15, 2020
Page 3 of 4

- CPG conducted staffing and planning for the 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- On June 4, CPG uploaded 2019 Current Conditions Biota Fish Aging data to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On June 15, CPG uploaded Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) of unvalidated and validated data from the September 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On June 16, CPG uploaded preliminary data from the second and third 2020 servicing of the Current Conditions PWCM moorings to the EPA SharePoint site.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to comments on the revised the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS delivered to Region 2 on May 15.
- CPG will conduct Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment servicing and SV CWCM sampling events if River conditions and COVID-19 restrictions permit.
- CPG will complete validation of 2019 Current Conditions Biota tissue data.
- CPG will conduct 2020 Current Conditions Biota tissue collection if COVID-19 restrictions permit.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Contractor Corporate and New Jersey work/travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 could impact 2020 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator



Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 158 – June 2020
July 15, 2020
Page 4 of 4

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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